

NPO#CHE-P0006-USA:5/初稿/雷少丰

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method for generating a watermark on a photo picture using a thermal printer; the thermal printer comprising a thermal printhead for heating an ink ribbon and generating an image through the ink ribbon on a photo picture; the ink ribbon comprising a plurality of sequentially arranged color frames, each color frame comprising a plurality of dye frames with different color dyes and a dye frame with overcoating; the method comprising:
 - using the thermal printhead to heat a color frame with a plurality of different color dyes and to sublimate the color dyes on a photo picture;
 - using the thermal printhead to heat the dye frame with the overcoating and to heat a different area on the dye frame by two distinct time periods.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein each color frame storing yellow, magenta, and cyan dye.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thermal printer further comprises a winding mechanism for driving the ink ribbon to generate a shift between the thermal printhead and the ink ribbon.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thermal printhead is capable of heating different areas on each dye frame stored with different color dyes by a plurality of different time periods, so as to print an image on a photo picture.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thermal printhead is capable of heating different areas on a dye frame stored with overcoating by two distinct time periods, so as to print an image-shaped overcoating on a photo picture.
6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thermal printer further comprises a controller for adjusting a heating time period for the thermal printhead to heat different areas on each color frame.
7. (new) A method for generating a watermark on a photo picture using a thermal printer; the thermal printer comprising a thermal printhead for heating an ink ribbon

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and generating an image through the ink ribbon on a photo picture; the ink ribbon comprising a plurality of sequentially arranged color frames, each color frame comprising a plurality of dye frames with different color dyes and a dye frame with overcoating; the method comprising:

using the thermal printhead to heat a color frame with a plurality of different color dyes and to sublimate the color dyes on a photo picture; and

using the thermal printhead to heat at least two different areas of the overcoating dye frame by at least two distinct time periods to dispose overcoating in at least two distinct thicknesses corresponding to the two distinct time periods to form a watermark image over the sublimated colored dye of the photo picture.

8. (new) The method of claim 7 further comprising dividing the photo picture into two portions, wherein thin overcoating is printed on one portion and thick overcoating is printed on another portion to form the watermark image.
9. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein the watermark image is selected from a group consisting of: a printed-letter watermark, a hidden information watermark, a signature, and a special pattern.